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03/20/24 • BIG PHARMA › VIEWS

Be Very Afraid? CDC, Big Media Drum Up Fear of 'Deadly' Measles Outbreaks

Modern measles-mongering is a leitmotif of post-pandemic public health, where the state and mainstream media measles-mongering is telling the population to fear a disease that they have an extremely remote chance of getting and an even more remote chance of dying from.

By Brownstone Institute

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By Alan Cassels

If you've been following reporting from mainstream media outlets lately you could not have missed the flurry of stories about the resurgence of measles in Canada or the U.S.

Stern-looking public health officials with wrinkled brows are quoted as saying we're about to be swallowed by a highly infectious disease that is vaccine-preventable.

Apparently, this is the next BIG thing to worry about. Or maybe not.

By the old marketing adage that "You don't sell the steak, you sell the sizzle," you can almost hear the charbroilers firing up with measles stories like these:

- Newsweek: "Migrant Measles Cases Spark Fear of a Wider Outbreak."
- This CBC story: "How concerned should we be about measles?"
- The Toronto Star: "Measles rates are 'skyrocketing!'"
- The Vancouver Sun: "Measles in Canada: What to know about rising cases and increased vaccine hesitancy." Noting measles outbreaks in Europe and Canadian health officials are "worried that spring break could reintroduce the highly-infectious virus to Canada."
- From The Sun (U.K.): "Parents to protect their children from measles surge as millions 'at risk.'"

I have not done an exhaustive analysis of current measles coverage, but from the dozen or so stories I have seen, the reporting seems to contain surprisingly consistent take-home messages: Measles is deadly, outbreaks are caused by too many unvaccinated children, and so we need to give more vaccines to everyone.

"The Wuhan Cover-Up" by Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
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Some conclude with: We need mandatory measles vaccination policies. No room for nuance there.

Then the scientific literature such as this paper concludes with the following statement:

> "Measles continues to pose a substantial and preventable healthcare burden, with serious complications, hospitalization and inpatient mortality."

In other words, be scared. Be fearful and run, don't walk, to the next clinic offering you or your kid a measles shot because you might not be up-to-date.

What all these stories lack, typical of media outlets surfing a fear-mongering narrative, is a sense of context, a short splash of history, and even a toe-dip into the arithmetic of measles. Trigger Warning: I intend to discuss some math below.

How far back do you have to go in British Columbia, a Canadian province of 5 million people, to see what measles looks like?

The last case in British Columbia (B.C.) was apparently in 2019 but you have to go back to 2018 to see a report from the B.C. Centre for Disease Control on the matter. The short report makes illuminating reading.

There were six cases of measles that year, in a population of 5.1 million. (Math alert: Hence if you lived in B.C. you had a 1 in 850,000 chance of catching measles that year). There were no measles deaths.

What do we know about the six cases reported? Of those six cases half were fully immunized with two shots, one had one, and one had a history of "childhood vaccines."

So maybe one could conclude that four to five of those six had some level of measles immunization. Hmmm. What is going on?

RFK Jr. and Brian Hooker's New Book: "Vax-Unvax"

A bit of history

Those of us born before 1970 with personal experience pretty much all agree that measles is a big "meh." We all had it ourselves and so did our brothers, sisters and school friends.

We also had chicken pox and mumps and typically got a few days off school. The only side effect of those diseases was that my mom sighed heavily and called work to say she had to stay home to look after a kid with spots.

It's hard to find what the death rate from measles was in Canada before the measles vaccine was released in the early 1960s but if we take the U.S. as a proxy, in 1955 there were 345 measles deaths in the U.S. population of 165 million.

(Math alert: that's a one in 478,000 chance of dying of measles in the pre-vaccine era).

Lots of people got measles back then as did me and my brother and sisters, but very few died.

Other reports note that the U.S. death rate from measles, and pre-vaccine was about 1 in 10,000 but this is likely to be an exaggeration because back then our parents who had a kid with a fever and a rash wouldn't have gone to the doctor or reported it to the government.

In other words, the 1 in 10,000 number only refers to the ten thousand people sick enough to have their case reported to the government or hospitalized.

The true death rate in the entire population is likely much, much lower. How many of our moms phoned the government or even the doctor if the kid had spots and a fever?

Almost none I'd conjecture.

Let's face it, even a short trip back through history shows us that medical doctors were very blasé about measles, described as a "self-limiting condition of short duration, moderate severity, and low fatality."

In other words, you got it, it didn't last long, it wasn't that bad and was very unlikely to kill you. The best thing about getting it, of course, is the bonus to your immune system as getting the real thing sets you up for near-lifelong and valuable immunity. What has changed?

Thanks, both to widespread vaccination and natural immunity, by the early 2000s measles was essentially declared eradicated in the U.S. and Canada, but still very much active in the developing world, where lack of proper nutrition (particularly vitamin A) puts malnourished kids at risk of all kinds of diseases, including measles.

In Canada and the U.S., even with upwards of 90% vaccination coverage among children, there are still outbreaks, mostly in middle and high schools.

This is not "failure to vaccinate" as the media will tell you, it is "vaccine failure."

The vaccine doesn't seem to work in some people. At the same time, there hasn't been a measles-caused death in Canada or the U.S. for at least 20 years. Let that sink in for a bit as you soak in the epidemic measles-mongering we're currently experiencing.

Then there is the not-often-quoted fact that "wild measles" is different from the one we're all vaccinated against, and this is not a bad thing.

Researchers have found that we should be glad that wild measles is still circulating in the community because it tends to boost people's immune systems (even among the vaccinated) when they come in contact with it.

An Italian study found that if you get measles, your immunity is lifelong, whereas your immunity after getting the two doses of the measles vaccine declines within 10-15 years.

This paper looked at the recent experience with measles in the U.S. (2002-2016) and reported there were 1,018 measles hospitalizations over that 14-year period. That is 73 hospitalizations per year.

There were a total of 34 deaths or about 2.4 deaths per year. That is out of a population of 327 million people. So your chances of dying from measles in the U.S. were about 1 in 136 million.

We are told that globally measles is a huge deal. Like any disease, it's certainly a bigger deal if you are poor and don't get enough to eat.

However, in 2019, the World Health Organization reported 839 cases in 23 states comprising 328 million people, thus making the rate about 1 in 391,000.

It's true that kids in poor countries can die from measles, yet they also die from everything else that kills poor, malnourished people living in countries without clean water, sanitation or functioning healthcare systems.

Many infectious diseases including measles attack the most immune-compromised, who also happen to be the poorest, least robust people on the planet.

The minuscule numbers we're talking about in the developed world, however, suggest that the risk of death from measles is wildly overblown.

This question lingers for me: why do public health people aided by the mainstream media feel they need to exaggerate, distort and fear-monger with this "disease?"

Perhaps the current set of public health officials isn't very good at "reading the room" in our post-COVID-19 world, where past obvious lies and distortions have seriously impacted our collective ability to trust public health advice.

Yet the campaign continues to try to scare the heck out of people claiming measles is a disease that represents a "substantial and preventable health care burden, with serious complications, hospitalization and inpatient mortality."

Some might say: Yes, but, how bad would the measles death rate be if we didn't have widespread measles vaccines available? Now we're getting hypothetical here and no one can answer that definitely.

To me, it's an unprovable straw-man argument and no defense for the blatant use of fear, distortion, exaggeration and hype to scare people about a disease where the potential for harm for most of us is so remote as to be laughable.

What does this exaggeration do? A recent Canadian survey found that opposition to mandatory vaccinations in children has grown from 24% (before the pandemic) to 38% (2024). This is the collateral damage of forcing vaccines on people which we saw deployed with COVID-19.

Again such actions just cause people to stop trusting "official" health advice and push back against coercive measures.

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I have spent a lot of my professional career countering fear-mongering and misinformation related to many prescription drugs, including those for high blood pressure, cholesterol, obesity or blood sugar, conditions for which crass and pharma-fueled messages confuse consumers and drive them back and forth to the doctor for more tests and more pills.

A colleague of mine, Dr. Joel Lexchin from Toronto, recently published a chapter on disease mongering in the Encyclopedia of Pharmacy Practice and Clinical Pharmacy.

He concluded:

> "Disease mongering promotes a view of people not as healthy autonomous beings but as vulnerable individuals always at risk from a threat just around the corner."

This is what is happening with measles. Big media and government overhyping the nature of an illness, which history has shown us can be a precursor to some very bad public health policies such as mandatory vaccination programs and other coercive measures.

Does it make sense to be measles-mongering when the level of herd immunity, obtained through natural immunity and vaccination is already pretty substantial? Doing so is the equivalent of crying wolf or shouting fire in a crowded theatre.

You unnecessarily alarm people and thus, down the road, when you do need them to pay attention to something serious, no one will trust you.

On a last note, we haven't discussed the downsides. My mantra is that any medicine that can help can also harm. What do we know about the harms of the measles vaccine?

The honest answer is there are some serious gaps in our knowledge. We can't deny that some people are regrettably hurt by vaccines. In the case of the measles vaccine, how many people have been hurt?

Pinning down an exact number is extremely hard to do as those numbers rely on vaccine adverse event reporting, a notoriously unreliable data source.

The reporting of drug or vaccine adverse events to health authorities is so poor that maybe 1 in 100 adverse events ever get reported to a government agency.

That was the conclusion of the Harvard Pilgrim study on the rate of reporting to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS).

(Math hint: if you hear of a drug or vaccine that caused 1,000 reported adverse events, then multiply that by up to 100 — so the true number possibly suffering that adverse event could be about 100,000 people.)

U.S. statistics drawn from a pool of people seeking compensation for injury or death caused by vaccines reported that between 1988 and 2023 there were 1,048 such reports linked to the MMR vaccine (the one that contains measles vaccines) made to the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program in the U.S.

Next to the flu vaccine or the DPT shot, the MMR vaccine had the third-most number of people seeking compensation for injury. If the 1,048 reports are only a tiny fraction of the people hurt by the vaccine, the true number could be closer to 100,000.

Remember, this is a "disease" that caused 34 deaths over a 14-year period in the U.S.

For a final comment to those who say the measles vaccine is "incredibly safe," I hope they are right but I would also ask what reliable research are they pointing to to support that conclusion.

A 2012 meta-analysis from the Cochrane Collaboration (which takes no money from the pharmaceutical industry) examined all the data they could find around the globe on the safety of the MMR vaccine.

They found 57 clinical trials with a total of 14.7 million children who had received the MMR vaccine.

Cochrane's conclusion stated that: "the design and reporting of safety outcomes in MMR vaccine studies, both pre- and post-marketing, are largely inadequate."

In other words: As much as public people shout "safe and effective" from the rooftops and browbeat those who are "hesitant," the reality is that the safety studies done on that vaccine both before and after they were approved for sale are no help in answering the question of overall safety.

If anyone has a more comprehensive meta-analysis of the overall safety of the MMR vaccine, please let me know.

To conclude, the current state of modern measles-mongering is a leitmotif of post-pandemic public health, where the state and mainstream media measles-mongering is actively telling the population to fear a disease that has an extremely remote chance of you getting it and an even more remote chance of you dying from it.

It predictably recommends everyone do whatever they can to protect their family (ie: get more measles shots) which may or may not protect you.

And if you get the shot, please know that any safety research on the measles vaccine is mostly inadequate.

Originally published by Brownstone Institute.

Alan Cassels is a drug policy researcher and author who has written extensively about disease mongering. He is the author of four books, including "The ABCs of Disease Mongering: An Epidemic in 26 Letters."

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Children's Health Defense.

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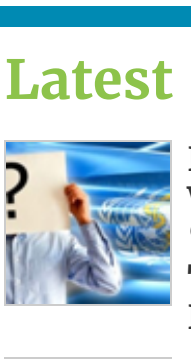

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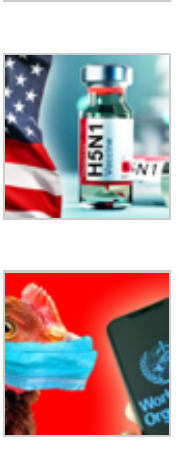

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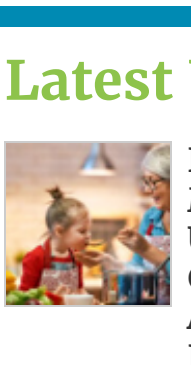

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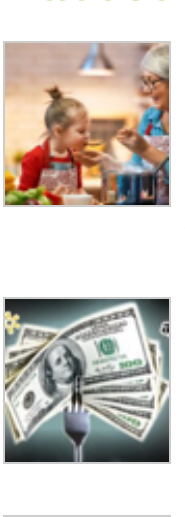

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LinUK
a month ago
"It wasn't doctors who changed the health of the nation, it was plumbers".
12 0 Reply

BChristine
a month ago edited
I was born in 1958. I recall having the measles at least once, and chicken pox twice. I never went to a Doctor; just remembered taking off from school for maybe a week. My Mother let me watch cartoons, Captain Kangaroo and Romper Room .... I don't even recall feeling bad - which is something I would have remembered.
These sicknesses run their course; we get through it and come out with stronger immune systems.
More people are aware of the fear-mongering now, but still not enough.
12 0 Reply

darlene → BChristine
a month ago
Same here. Born in 1957, had measles, mumps and chicken pox....all I remember are the pictures my Mom took of me. Got to stay home and watch tv and eat popsicles...got better and went back to school...nothing like natural immunity.
9 0 Reply

brbg → darlene
a month ago
I was born in 1945 and, of course, had all the childhood diseases. Now we have an epidemic of autism after vaccines. I remember reading an article written by a drug company researcher who was tasked with investigating whether the MMR vaccine caused autism. He reported a definite relationship. His boss ordered him to destroy all of his research papers. ...then she took a job with the FDA!
3 0 Reply

ABoleynGirl → BChristine
a month ago
I remember itching like crazy with chicken pox, and not being allowed to scratch.
4 0 Reply

Mark → BChristine
a month ago
Me too...born in 1957, and had measles, mumps, and chicken pox. How is the CDC going to continue promoting such a weak disease to the millions who are already immune?
2 0 Reply

Al Tracy
a month ago
Correct if i'm wrong, but didn't RFK,Jr./CHD sue the FDA and CDC for the information on childhood vaccine safety trials that were to be tracked since the 1986 Childhood Vaccine Act? The 'Agencies' then had to admit they didn't have any information on trials, likely because there weren't any!
9 0 Reply

tamarque → Al Tracy
a month ago
Yes, no safety studies ever done. Further, most studies by the Pharma industry and CDC (always with Big Pharma interests in mind) tend to be anything from inadequate to outright fraudulent.
8 0 Reply

holisticpoet
a month ago
Protect yourself from measles. Have a measles party.
7 0 Reply

Mark → holisticpoet
a month ago
That was one thing my mother did when we were all very young (I have 2 other brothers). When we reached that age she phoned around the neighborhood to see which kids had these diseases, and then got permission for us to go play with them for a while; hence, we all had these childhood diseases and are now immune.
2 0 Reply

tamarque
a month ago
Missing in this article is the fact t hat this fear mongering is part of a class war by the wealthy against the public. Covid made $$$billions for the industry while impoverishing 100's of 1000's of people and causing many small businesses to close forever. The rate of Black owned businesses forced to shut down by covid mandates is astronomical (can't recall the number) which reveals the racist component of this strategy to impoverish people and destroy independence, as defined under capitalism.

Another missing piece of history in this article is that vaccines got sold to the pubic specifically, as per the anecdote Brownstone noted, to prevent women from losing time at work which cost the bosses money. That was the argument sold to women--they would not lose time at work. And given that labor laws protecting parents were pretty non-existence in the 1940-60's and maybe later, women often were threatened with, and often were fired. For low income people this was disastrous.

Given the amount of reading I have done over the decades, there are 1000's of studies on vaccine failure and damages. I think Green Medicine Information has a major library. I studied a lot within homeopathy and saw vaccine damaged cases even in adults and read the library by a probably retired nurse/homeopathy Sherri Nakken who did reading courses on vaccines and their damages.
5 0 Reply

r2bzjudge
a month ago
Since Covid, i don't even listen to the CDC. They wanted to stigmatize those who didn't take the Covid shot or those who took horse paste Ivermectin, but were concerned about stigmatizing those in West Hollywood, who got Monkeypox. Apparently, there are issues with those vaccines as well, for that matter. Since then we have been warned about Marburg or other viruses, including the hypothetical virus X. This winter media pushed the Tripledemic again. RSV, Flu and Covid. Got what felt like a mild cold in November, then shortly after felt kind of icky for a few days, as though something else was trying to gain traction. Felt fine the rest of the winter. Took none of the Tripledemic shots. None of the other shots for seniors either, such as Shingles.

The government is just too vax happy, putting 72 doses of various vaccines on the childhood schedule to protect the liability immunity of pharma companies.
4 0 Reply

Stephen Simac
a month ago
I also correctly predicted that the anti-vaxx movement would become much larger when adults were forced to be injected by mandates, not just infants and children. Parents are overwhelmed with many other challenges with little time and energy to confront the system, and apparently the majority of adults believed children's deaths and injuries (which they knew little to nothing about), were needed to benefit the greater good. Most adults had never gotten their "recommended boosters" for childhood vaccines, yet that didn't stop them from ranting about selfish parents, (fewer than 2% exempted). Only when adults were corralled into this "herd immunity" myth with covid, has the movement gained massive numbers. Many are still on board with childhood mandates though.
3 0 Reply

Quacked Nomy → Stephen Simac
a month ago
its not antivax movement its a movement of people wiseing up to the fact that the govt and big pharma wants us dead
5 0 Reply

Mark → Quacked Nomy
a month ago
What worries me most is what our governments plan to do when we're not dying fast enough. I have read numerous articles about the pending "mass extinction" culling that is planned for 2045. What are they planning to do...spray all of us? Poison our food (which many argue is already being done), and water?
There are so many ways for them to kill us off.
2 0 Reply

Lori
a month ago
As an RN, I learned that live virus vaccines are contagious for a few days. To prevent outbreaks with live virus vaccines a child should be quarantined for the determined amount of necessary days, but they are not. This was sadly realized in the 1950's-1960's where the live virus polio vaccine was spreading polio until an attenuated polio vaccine came out in the late 1970's Vaccinating all the immigrants that come into the country may be what's contributing to recent outbreaks of measles. We don't hear of outbreak of diptheria. This is not a live virus vaccine. When chicken pox vaccines came out (live virus), shingles became epidemic. Also not to mention the medical definition of a virus is an Obligate Parasite, so banning antiparasitic medications during Covid-19 is extremely suspicious. I googled the definition about 6 months ago and it came up an obligate parasite. Since I've been spreading this information through social media etc. Google no longer gives this definition but I just look in hard copy books like Tabers Medical Dictionary and there it states it's an obligate Parasite. Censorship is so frighteningly prevalent that one must ask what is really going on. Considering Big Pharma's lack of responsibility for the vaccines they produce it is absolutely necessary to definitively study why our children and babies are becoming type1 diabetics by scientists not on the payroll of big pharma. A naturopathic doctor told me their science has shown a protein in the new Tdap vaccine which became mandated approximately 15 years ago (as a school nurse I sent the letter that all children
see more
3 1 Reply

Светлана Черемисина
a month ago edited
Вы не поверите, но так себя ведут и российские СМИ; когда только началась эта истерия, я не поленилась и нашла в интернете статистические данные по кори по РФ (в дипломных работах медиков) ; так вот статистика говорила об обратном - что нет никаких "вспышек"... а есть только чье-то огромное желание вколоть людям очередную жидкость неизвестного содержания под любым предлогом
Svetlana Cheremisina
You won't believe it, but this is how the Russian media behave; when this hysteria started, I was not lazy and found statistical data on measles in the Russian Federation on the Internet (in medical theses); so the statistic said the opposite - that there are no "outbreaks"... but only someone's great desire to inject people with another liquid of unknown content under any pretext.
1 0 Reply

George Kanakaris
a month ago

Vaccinations prevented an estimated 20.3 million measles deaths in the period 2000-2015.What's wrong with you people ?

0 0 Reply

Mayfield ➜ George Kanakaris
25 days ago

The measles vaccine has not prevented 20.3M deaths and there's nothing wrong with us.

0 0 Reply

I_P_Frehley
a month ago

Aren't these "outbreaks" always traced back to a group of recently vazzinated people? Like the one 10 or so years ago at Disneyland\world

0 0 Reply

Stephen Simac
a month ago

So far their fear mongering is mild compared to the 2015 Disney Measles Mania that prepped the CA state legislature to pass SB277, abolishing parental rights for school children exemptions, that summer. This was a vaxx industry/ "public health" promoter agencies pre-planned panic hyped to churn the compliant media waters, with little to no information (as provided by Dr. Cassels) to calm the fury at "anti-vaxxer parents."
The Measles Mania chapters in my 2016 book *Mandatory Vaccinations = Totalitarian Inoculations* cites and quotes from dozens of news articles published that winter/spring/summer fanning the fear mongering.
The "400 deaths a year from childhood measles" number was included in every article, yet now they claim 500 deaths. What they never said, almost all of these deaths occurred in crowded, poorly fed, Auschwitz like state institutions for the "retarded" (lumping all developmental disabilities together), one of which was where the first measles vaccine was tested.

0 0 Reply

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